

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 23 to page 3, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The tiles at a particular level can be linearly sorted by systematically visiting tiles in an order determined by a space-filling curve as shown in Figs. ~~1a, 1b, and 1c~~ 1A, 1B, and 1C. The tiles can also be assigned unique numeric identifiers, known as Morton codes or z-values. The terms tile and tile code will be used herein interchangeably in this and other sections related to spatial indexing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 8-9 with the following amended paragraph:

Figs. ~~1a, 1b, and 1c~~ 1A, 1B, and 1C represent an example of linear sorting of tiles at a particular level by systematically visiting tiles in an order determined by a space-filling curve;